

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Listing of claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A boat having enhanced stability, safety and comfort, comprising:

a unit body boat hull having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending substantially therethrough[[,] such that said slot divides said boat hull into at least two substantially separate buoyant compartments, and such that water, on which the boat is floating, freely communicates with said slot and with air within and surrounding said slot;

wherein said slot is fully or partly open at at least a bow or a stern or a port side or a starboard side of said boat hull, or at a top or a bottom of said slot.

Claim 3 (Original): The boat of claim 2, wherein said slot extends longitudinally through said boat hull.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A boat having enhanced stability, safety and comfort, comprising:

a unit body boat hull having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending substantially therethrough such that said slot divides said boat hull into at least two substantially separate buoyant compartments and such that water, on which said boat is floating, freely communicates with said slot and with air within and surrounding said slot; ~~The boat of claim 3,~~ wherein said slot is fully or partly open at a [[rear]] stern and closed at a front thereof bow of said boat hull, or said slot is fully or partly closed at a stern and open at a bow of said boat hull.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 3, wherein said slot is open on a bottom of said boat hull thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 3, wherein said slot is closed on a bottom of said boat hull thereof.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A boat having enhanced stability, safety and comfort, comprising:

a unit body boat hull having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending approximately the length of said boat hull such that said slot divides said boat hull into at least two substantially separate buoyant compartments, and such that water, on which the boat is floating, freely communicates with said slot and with air within and surrounding said lot; ~~The~~

~~boat of claim 3, wherein said slot is closed at a front bow and rear thereof at a stern of said boat~~  
hull.

Claim 9 (Original): The boat of claim 2, wherein an air vent is communicated with said slot.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 3, wherein said slot is intermittently open on ~~[[the]] its bottom thereof~~ or on its top.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 2, wherein said slot extends upwardly to a location above the waterline of ~~[[the]] said boat~~, such that said slot is simultaneously above and below ~~[[the]] said~~ waterline.

Claim 12 (Original): The boat of claim 3, wherein said slot extends substantially along a longitudinal centerline of said boat hull.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 2, wherein said slot extends longitudinally through said boat hull substantially along a longitudinal centerline thereof, and is fully or partly open on the front, bottom and rear thereof a stern, and on either a bow or a bottom of said boat hull, and further wherein said slot extends upwardly to a location above the waterline of ~~[[the]] said boat~~ such that said slot is simultaneously above and below ~~[[the]] said~~ waterline.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The boat of ~~claim 13~~ claim 2, wherein multiple centers of buoyancy are created, at least one each on opposing sides of said slot.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~The boat of claim 2,~~ A boat having enhanced stability, safety and comfort, comprising:

a unit-body boat hull having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending substantially therethrough such that said slot divides said boat hull into at least two substantially separate buoyant compartments, and such that water, on which said boat is floating, freely communicates with said slot and with air within and surrounding said slot;

wherein said slot extends transversely through said boat hull.

Claim 16 (Original): The boat of claim 15, wherein said transverse slot is angled.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 15 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said boat hull is a catamaran, and wherein each side at least one hull has a transverse slot extending therethrough.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 15 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said boat hull is a trimaran, and wherein [[each]] at least one hull of the trimaran has a transverse slot extending therethrough.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 15~~-claim 2~~, further comprising a second slot, wherein said slot extends transversely ~~longitudinally~~ through said boat hull, and said second slot extends ~~transversely~~ longitudinally through said boat hull.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 2, wherein said boat hull includes a plurality of elongated slots extending longitudinally or transversely therethrough.

Claim 21 (Original): The boat of claim 20, wherein said boat hull includes 3 elongated slots extending longitudinally therethrough, and wherein one of said 3 slots extends substantially along a centerline of said boat hull.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The boat of ~~claim 2~~ claim 15, wherein multiple centers of buoyancy are created, at least one each on opposing sides of said slot.

Claim 23 (Original): The boat of claim 2, wherein said boat hull is a submarine hull.